

Friends Of Willow Park Inc.



Educating and involving the community in protecting, preserving and valuing parklands

NEWSLETTER – January 2009

An Exciting Year Ahead - 2009

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2009. We hope you and yours had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and that you are excited about the year ahead.

Friends of Willow Park has an exciting year planned. We will be continuing with our usual activities and incorporating new ones. Our bi-monthly newsletter will continue and we will be updating the photo gallery on our website soon. We have some wonderful guest speakers coming up this year beginning in February with Dean Twist, who will talk about Climate Change. Other speakers during the year include Dr Terry Hillman (talking about watery things), Dr Alison Mitchell (updating us on our WaterWatch program), and one of our Patrons (topic to be decided). We will continue with our Arbor Week, National Tree Days, Waterweek activities and our regular works days on the fourth Sunday of the non-summer months. In addition, we look forward to again participating in Clean up Australia and Paws in the Park. The Master Plan will continue to be a focus for us in 2009. We will be adding social activities to our calendar and we are providing active support to a few people interested in starting a Friends of Sumsion Gardens group.

Be sure to watch our newsletter for details of our activities. We hope to see you some time in 2009.

Our End-Of-Year Party – Great Fun Was Had By All!



Enjoying our End-Of-Year Party

Of course, much of our 2009 activities were discussed at our End-Of-Year party last month in between the great food, wine and games.



Enjoying our End-Of-Year Party

Patrons: Professor David Mitchell, Professor Allan Curtis, Dr Juliet Bird

Postal Address: c/- P.O. Box 1083, Wodonga, 3689

Website: www.friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Phone: Julie: (02)6056 1787, Ali (02) 6056 1938

Next Works & Waterwatch:

No Works over summer. Next Works:

Sunday 22 March at 9.30 am

Next Waterwatch:

Sunday 22 February & 22 March at 4.30 pm

BYO refreshments, water, sunscreen, hat

Meet near the BBQ area in Willow Park

Come along for a minute or an hour
Phone Geoff 0427 954 050
or Pauline 6056 6275

Welcome to Kieran Bennett – Our New Coordinator

Friends of Willow Park welcomes Kieran Bennett, who has accepted the position of Coordinator. Kieran is off to a flying start and we know he will be an asset to us.

We feel it is only fair that Kieran introduce himself so we asked him for 100 or so words and here is what he has provided as a brief introduction:

“This is a one hundred word introduction to me, Kieran, your newly employed coordinator. I grew up on a small farm in the Kiewa Valley, attended Wodonga High, and studied politics and sociology at the ANU in Canberra (a degree I intend to finish one of these days!). Many of you know me as a member of the Australian Greens; rest assured there will be a sharp distinction between my political involvement and my work for you in *Friends of Willow Park*. I'm a great supporter of the work that *Friends of Willow Park* does in involving the community in the stewardship of public space.

I hope that as coordinator I am able to help the committee and all members get more out of *Friends of Willow Park*.”

Please welcome Kieran when you see him at one of our activities during 2009. You will recognise Kieran because that is him below:



Please send us your feedback on our website and don't forget to look through the photo gallery.

February's Information Evening Guest Speaker – Dean Twist

The following information has been provided by Dean:

I have lived in Albury for the past 8 years with my wife and two young children. My family loves the sense of community and opportunity that Albury-Wodonga has to offer.

I have had the great pleasure and experience of being trained as part of the AI Gore Climate Change Project and more recently have undertaken training with Dr Mark Diesendorf.

As a person who has spent his working life connected with rural industries I am deeply concerned about the potential for climate change to adversely impact on farming communities and our delicate Murray River eco-system.

As such I want to share the scientific information and AI Gore's passion about grass roots solutions to as many people as possible. This problem is not insurmountable and importantly individuals and local communities can make a difference by small changes in behaviour."

We hope to see you all at our next information evening when Dean will talk about a "Climate for Change".

When? Thursday 19 February 2009

What time? 7.30 p.m.

Where? Belvoir School, 4 Bowman Court, Wodonga

Light supper provided

Further information: Contact Alison on 6056 1938

RSVP by 17 February
phone Alison on 6056 1938 or email
president@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

Another grant!

We are pleased to announce that we have received another grant from the Commonwealth Government through their Volunteer Grants Program. This will allow us to purchase needed items for our works trailer – a brush cutter, a whipper snipper, a first aid kit and snake bite kits. These items will enable us to make short work of long grass around our new plants – and ensure some immediate first aid is at hand should it be required. Our thanks to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Special thanks to our November works volunteers

We take this opportunity to thank the large group of members who worked tirelessly to help shore up our new plants for the gruelling summer. It was great to welcome a number of new people to the activity. For three hours people weeded, mulched, whipper-snipped and mowed to give our plants the best chance of survival over summer. It was a great morning's work – and there was a wonderful sense of camaraderie. Thanks everyone!

We would also like to make a special thank-you to Josh Collins, a student from Huon Middle School. Josh worked with one of the committee members for many hours over several days in December mulching many of the new plants.

Membership

Don't forget that at our recent AGM it was decided to make membership to *Friends of Willow Park* FREE.

To help us in our work, donations will be most welcome.

So, if you have been putting off joining us – now is the time to do it. A membership form is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Master Plan for Willow Park

Friends of Willow Park will continue to meet with the City of Wodonga about the Master Plan in 2009.

We would like to thank Johan Louw and Peter McLarty from City of Wodonga for their ongoing efforts in this process. We would also like to thank outgoing committee members Jenny Hanuska (City of Wodonga) and Jenni Huber (*Friends of Willow Park*) who have given much time, thought and effort to the process. We are very happy to welcome Wilma Kröttje (*Friends of Willow Park*) to the committee.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the Master Plan or if you'd like to get involved. Otherwise - stay tuned for more!

Contributing to our newsletter

If you have an item of interest for inclusion in our newsletter, please email

newsletter@friendsofwillowpark.org.au

See us at Lounging on High

Friends of Willow Park will host a marquee at Lounging on High on **Friday 20 February**.

We will:

- Showcase our work
- Have a number of fun activities for children and families
- Provide an opportunity for people to put forward their ideas in regard to the future of Willow Park (as part of the Master Plan process)
- Introduce *Friends of Sumsion Gardens*

Put the date in your diary – bring your family and friends!

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FRIENDS OF WILLOW PARK

Membership Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

DATE: _____

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE

We would appreciate a donation with your membership form, but this is entirely voluntary

I wish to join *Friends of Willow Park*. I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association and to support the group's objectives (below).

Donation: _____

Donation: (circle) Cash/Cheque
Cheques payable to: Friends of Willow Park Inc.

Receipt Number: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Participating in Friends of Willow Park

Friends of Willow Park is an active group and we encourage you to get involved. Please indicate how you would like to participate (you can tick as many of these as you want).

- Helping with the campaigns to save Willow Park from undue development
- Being part of the Committee of Management
- Helping with the newsletter
- Walks, talks, tours, socials
- Hands-on environment projects
- Water quality testing
- Information stalls and publications
- Interest Groups
- Fundraising

Send your completed form to:

Friends of Willow Park Inc.
c/- P.O. Box 1083, Wodonga, 3689

Our Objectives

- (a) To promote the protection and preservation of Willow Park as public open space parkland;
- (b) To promote the protection and preservation of the social, economic and environmental value of Willow Park including the flora, fauna and features (scenic, archaeological, geological, historic or scientific);
- (c) To educate and inform the community about the role and value of Willow Park; and
- (d) To foster community involvement in, and enjoyment of, Willow Park in accordance with the above objectives.

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